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man personality may find that his profession has benefited by the digression and that he himself has become more truly professional. For it is truth to high ideals that makes for

our ultimate success. As Percy Mackaye has truly said:

"Like our dreams shall we ourselves become."

PULL IN THE GANGWAY!

By ADAM STROHM, *Librarian, Public Library, Detroit, Michigan*

FIFTH GENERAL SESSION

Our deliberations are at an end. We have listened with appreciation to speakers whose names are a source of common pride to all of us engaged in library work. We have had the advice and the articulated point of view of men who have rendered valuable service in other fields. We are rising from our council tables heartened by the earnestness and aggressiveness of spirit that have characterized our sittings. We break ranks only to convene in smaller units at the various centers and outposts where we are billeted to guard and to promote the common welfare.

The warrant for this gathering will be determined by the proven wisdom of the plans and measures here agreed upon to make the influence of libraries ever more potent and recognized in the various problems of human affairs, in the science of government, in the arts, in commerce and manufacture, and, above everything else, in national education and culture. The closing note of our conference has been a definition of our responsibility to the service in which we are enlisted and the code of conduct that should apply. Conscious as I am of the adequate manner in which previous speakers have dealt with this question, I trust, nevertheless, that you will allow me a few references to the ideals and high purposes which must be the motive power of any worthy service.

Confronted with representatives of institutions within the span of the whole American continent and even from more distant points, I have a happy feeling that our duty to our profession lies not in the mere exploitation or boosting of a local institution but in the developing of human assets of common ownership and shared benefits. According to traditions we are in the business of creating readers. May we not go a bit further and proclaim that it is our duty to create clear

and honest thinkers! Our charter to practice our profession is granted for the high purpose of promoting and socializing intelligence. Human society is very often propelled in its eager efforts by sentiment, feelings and sympathetic instincts. These are motives of high moral nature and certainly as far as sympathy and good will are concerned we do not desire to stem the flow. But we would like to have these efforts directed by and subservient to intelligence.

Let us stand for the promotion of true knowledge and for the orderly union of moral and intellectual law in choosing the resources of our profession and directing them toward the noble aspirations of our own age.

The mere increase of the volume of our resources and the mechanical distribution of same for public consumption are meaningless unless our labors are controlled by a competent understanding of values and not reacting blindly to mere well-meaning yearnings. In short, let our efforts be truly creative, vitalizing the public mind. Let us drive a wedge into the shams and unveracities of disorderly minds, sweep the dross aside and exact intellectual integrity and sincere criticism.

In endeavoring with other local agencies to promote law and order in public thinking, the Detroit Public Library has had the benefit of a far-seeing government and a generous-minded public opinion, making it possible to erect buildings wherein are housed organizations and their equipment for mental training and self development. The good people of Detroit have, during the last decade or so, enjoyed a rather noteworthy state of prosperity, largely the product of their own energy and daring. They take a legitimate pride in their increased economic power, but possibly we may also point with happy satisfaction to

the generosity with which the city and its people have shown that they are interested not only in external advantages but in making human existence happy and full of the graces of life. Possibly our new library building is the most cherished expression of this spirit. It stands before us as an acknowledgment of our inheritance from ages past. The inherent joy and power of beauty as revealed in the white purity of the structure triumphantly proclaim that this city desires only the best when ready to show its appreciation of things of refinement, of ac-

complishments of the human mind in an hour of inspiration.

We are not boastful, only truly and joyfully grateful for our good fortune. We realize that we owe our sister cities an accounting of the pound that has been placed in our keeping. We trust that you will have found that it has been productive of good and worthy things. We feel deeply the honor of your visit and in parting we can assure you that we desire more than ever to be your associates in forwarding the mission of our national library service.